Immediately when an opportunity comes, they will dump that quantity on the Government of India who in return would supply to us. Whenever our supply is reported to be unfit for human consumption, I have always brought it to the attention of the Government of India. In very many cases, I have strongly protested against these things. That being the case, the best service that the honourable members can do in such a situation is they must report to Government that such and such a commodity is unfit for human consumption and that the same be returned to the place from which it was imported here. If such a thing were reported to us, we could have written to the Government of India, saying that this was the kind of stuff supplied to us and that we are asked to consume such a rotten stuff. We could have asked the Government of India to take these rotten things back and return the money instead. So excepting the discussions of such type on the floor of the House, I have not heard any protest being made by any honourable member of this House. In fact I was trying to get such reports. The honourable member Mr. E. K. Madhavan did not publish these things till now. On the other hand he was giving a picturesque story of what happened in Vaikom on this matter. If the honourable member had brought this matter to the Excise Commissioner he would have immediately taken action and reported to Government and the Government as a consequence might have sent back the rotten commodity to the Government of India and made a claim on them for the return of the money.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: As soon as information about the milk powder reached me, I pointed it out to the Commissioner of the Alwaye Municipality and I know that he had sent some communication on the subject to the Excise Commissioner, and all the rest of it. I was vigilant enough to bring that aspect of the matter to the Excise Commissioner as well as to the Commissioner of the Alwaye Municipality.

PRESIDENT: But the honourable member could have in his question added this point as well, instead of bringing this matter in the present fashion

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Sir, from the answer given by my honourable friend the Excise Commissioner, it appears that sugar has to be bought on a Municipal basis than on a population basis.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: But I have to say that sugar is not required for all sections of the people at the same rate.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: But we do not get enough of it

PRESIDENT: What does the honourable member suggest?

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: It should be divided on a population basis.

Sale of foreign liquor.

410. * MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) how many licensees there are for the sale of foreign liquor at present;

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[Mr. P. S. Gopala Pillai.]

(*b*) whether the policy of Government is one of encouraging or discouraging the sale of the same;

(*c*) whether the number of toddy and arrack shops increased this year; and

(*d*) if so, how much?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: (*a*) 38

(*b*) The policy is one of regulation of prices and consumption.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) 9 arrack shops.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know what are the actual steps taken by the department in regulating this consumption of foreign liquor?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: There is the import duty, excise duty and then, we inspect foreign liquor shops and see whether everything is carried on according to the rule.

MR. V. I. IDICULA: ഈ ആക്ഠ് പ്രാബല്യത്തിനുമുമ്പുള്ള പ്രാക്കിനുക്കുടി ഡ്യൂട്ടി ചുമത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: No, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Sir, with reference to part (b), where it is stated that the policy is one of regulation of prices and consumption, may I know whether there is any control or regulation of prices for the sale of foreign liquor?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Control means?.....

PRESIDENT: Is there any regulation of prices for the sale of foreign liquor?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: We have not fixed the maximum price.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I then take it that the answer given to part (b) is not correct?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Sir, all that I said is we have not fixed a maximum price

PRESIDENT: You have fixed a minimum price?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Sir, in answer to part (c) whether the number of toddy and arrack shops has increased this year, it is stated that there is an increase of nine arrack shops. The number of arrack shops alone is given. May I know why the number of arrack shops alone is given?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN: There is increase only in the arrack shops. There is no increase in the number of toddy shops.

Levy of duty on betel nuts.

411. * MR. P. T. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have given any interpretation on the word "curing" in the Act that governs the levy of duty on betel nuts?

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